

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 AF-04 AID-10 PM-03 DODE-00

NSCE-00 NSC-10 INR-09 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01 IGA-01

L-02 PRS-01 IO-03 RSR-01 RSC-01 /077 W
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R 160607 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1986

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 607

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, EAID, ET, YE, YS, SU, UR, IS

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI

REF: ADDIS 4021 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN APRIL 12 CALL ON YAR PRESIDENT ABD
AL- RAHMAN AL- IRYANI, AMBASSADOR AND AAO RUIZ SUMMARIZED
FORTHCOMING USAID PROGRAM. STATUS OF USG SUPPORT FOR
EMERGENCY AND LONGER TERM MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YARG
WAS REVIEWED. CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN YAR, ETHIOPIA
AND SUDAN WERE EXAMINED. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED KEEN
INTEREST IN AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF RED SEA ISLANDS
SOVEREIGNTY PROMLE M , THROUGH FRIENDLY DISCUSSION WITH
IEG. END SUMMARY

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1. ACCOMPANIED BY AAO RUIZ, I CALLED ON PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI IN TAIZ EVENING APRIL 12 FOLLOWING RETURN SAME DAY FROM ETHIOPIA.

2. AT PRESIDENT'S REQUEST, RUIZ SUMMARIZED PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF USAID PROGRAM IN YAR AS AGREED AND NOW ABOUT TO BE IMPLEMENTED. PRESIDENT STRESSED CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF US ASSISTANCE IN MEETING ACUTE WATER PROBLEMS IN NORTHERN PORTION OF COUNTRY BROUGHT ABOUT BY PROLONGED DROUGHT. HE WELCOMED RETURN OF RUIZ IN WHOM HE SAID YARG AND YEMENIS HAD TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

3. I REFERRED TO FLARE- UP OF CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE PDRY ATTACK WHICH HAD ARISEN DURING MY ABSENCE. I NOTED THAT THANKS TO PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI'S PROMPT RECOURSE TO DIPLOMACY WITH PDRY, SENSE OF ACUTENESS AND IMMEDIACY SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN DISSIPATED. NEVERTHELESS, I KNEW YARG CONTINUED TO FEEL ITS VULNERABILITY BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE DEFENSES AND REMAINED CONCERNED TO BRING ABOUT BOTH IMMEDIATE AND LONGER TERM IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS MILITARY POSTURE. REGARDING FORMER, AND AS ANTICIPATED IN CHARGE NEWTON'S REMARKS TO PRESIDENT ON APRIL 3, USG FOLLOWING UP PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG ON WAYS IN WHICH TO REMEDY, AT LEAST IN PART, YARG'S MOST CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION SAYING HE HOPED USG WOULD CONTINUE URGE SAG ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY AS LATTER'S RESPONSE TO DATE LEFT MUCH TO BE DESIRED. I ASSURED HIM WE WOULD CONTINUE SUPPORT PROMPT ASSISTANCE BY SAG BUT PRIMARY CHANNEL HAD TO BE THAT OF DIRECT DISCUSSION BETWEEN YARG AND SAG.

4. PRESIDENT ASKED HOW MY TRIP TO ETHIOPIA HAD GONE. I SAID I HOPED IT HAD BEEN USEFUL IN ADVANCING AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE SEE TAKING PLACE IN SOUTHERN RED SEA. SOVIET ACTIVITY ON OPPOSITE SHORES OF THE SOUTHERN RED SEA IS A SINGLE PHENOMENON, RESPONSES TO WHICH SHOULD BE COORDINATED TO GREATER DEGREE THAN HAS BEEN CASE HERETOFORE. YAR'S PROBLEM WITH PDRY MIRRORS ETHIOPIA'S PROBLEM WITH SOMALIA. IN PUTTING SOPHISTICATED OFFENSIVE WEAPONRY INTO HANDS OF RADICAL
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REGIMES IN ADEN AND MOGADISCIO, SOVIETS HAVE A CLEAR,

COORDINATED AND SINGLE OBJECTIVE : GAINING ULTIMATE CONTROL OVER BAB AL MANDAB STRAITS, AN HISTORICAL OBJECTIVE OF RUSSIAN STATE. IN COUNTERING THE REALIZATION OF THIS OBJECTIVE, IT IS IN INTERETS OF MODERATE RED SEA STATES, ETHIOPIA, YEMEN, SAUDI ARABIA AND SUDAN TO BEGIN DISCREETLY TO WORK MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER. MY CONVERSATIONS IN ETHIOPIA HAD SHOWN THAT IEG AWARE OF THIS IMPERATIVE AND, UNDER STIMULUS OF EMPEROR'S PERSONAL INTEREST, RECIPROCATES DESIRE OF YARG AND PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI (AS EXPRESSED TO ME IN MARCH 22 CONVERSATION, SANAA 472) FOR CLOSER, MORE EFFECTIVE TIES.

5. PRESIDENT ASKED IF I COULD TELL HIM ANYTHING ON IEG ATTITUDE TOWARD RESOLUTION OF RED SEA ISLANDS SOVEREIGNTY PROBLEM WHICH, HE SAID, YARG SEEKS THROUGH EARLY, FRIENDLY DISCUSSION. I REPLIED THAT I HAD RAISED THIS WITH IEG FOREIGN MINISTER DR. MINASSIE (REFTEL). HE HAD ASSURED ME OF ETHIOPIA'S WISH TO RESOLVE THIS THROUGH NEGOTIATION AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. ETHIOPIA, HE HAD STATED, VIEWED SITUATION AS DID YARG: IT DID NOT INTEND TO BE ACQUISITIVE. IEG HAD FORMED INTER- MINISTERIAL STUDY GROUP TO EXAMINE HISTORY OF ISLANDS AND EXPECTED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH YARG AFTER ITS WORK COMPLETED. FRANKLY SPEAKING, IT WAS MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION THAT IEG HAD NO CLEARER IDEAS ABOUT HISTORY OF THESE INSIGNIFICANT, LARGELY UNINHABITED ISLANDS THAN DID YARG. ESSENTIAL WAS THAT BOTH PARTIES SHOULD APPROACH PROBLEM IN CONTEXT THEIR LARGER AND ACKNOWLEDGED INTEREST IN A RELATIONSHIP OF DEEPENING COOPERATION. WHILE WE HAD PERHAPS HAD LIMITED USEFUL ROLE IN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN IEG AND YARG, USG DID NOT OTHERWISE INTEND INVOLVE ITSELF IN THIS QUESTION WHICH A MATTER FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATION BETWEEN OUR TWO FRIENDS.

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-10 ADP-00 IO-03 SS-14 RSC-01 AID-10

PM-03 DODE-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 INR-09 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

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R 160607 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1987

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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6. PRESIDENT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED USG ATTITUDE AND INTEREST. HE ONLY HOPED IEG WOULD REPLY SOON AND POSITIVELY TO YARG REQUEST FOR INITIATION OF NEGOTIATION. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN VISITED BY PDRY INFORMATION MINISTER ABDULLAH KHAMIRI WHO HAS BEEN TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE FOR YAR IN HIS TRAVELS TO OTHER ARAB CAPITAL S. KHAMIRI HAD SUGGESTED YAR JOIN PDRY IN SOME MILITARY INITIATIVE TO SEIZE UNINHABITED ISLANDS, WHETHER OR NOT CLAIMED BY ETHIOPIA, TO PREVENT THEIR USE BY ISRAEL. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD TOLD KHAMIRI TO LAY OFF: YARG HAD RECONNOITERED PRINCIPAL ISLAND CLAIMED BY IT AND FOUND NO ISRAELIS. YARG INTENDED WORK THIS OUT QUIETLY AND CALMLY WITH ETHIOPIA IN A WAY THAT WOULD SAFE-GUARD ARAB INTERESTS.

7. I NOTED THAT MY TRIP TO ETHIOPIA HAD COINCIDENTALLY PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION WITH A RESPONSIBLE
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SUDANESE OFFICIAL (SUDAN' S KNOWLEDGEABLE CONGEN IN ASMARA) REGARDING SUDAN' S RELATIONSHIP WITH YAR. I HAD BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN THAT SUDAN RECIPROCATES YARG' S SENSE THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE COMMON INTERESTS WHICH SHOULD CAUSE THEM DRAW CLOSER TOGETHER AS PART OF AN INFORMAL RED SEA ASSOCIATION OF LIKE-MINDED MODERATE STATES. SUDAN EVIDENTLY CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMBASSY IN SANAA, A MOVE ABOUT WHICH IT HAS HITHERTO HAD SOME HESITANCY IN FEAR OF APPEARING TO PREJUDICE UNITY MOVES BETWEEN THE TWO YEMEN S. I HAD BEEN TOLD THAT " SUDAN COULD NOT SAY

NO" SHOULD YARG IN DUE COURSE SEEK SOME FORM OF
LIMITED SUDANESE MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE
THROUGH PROVISION OF SOME CONTRACT OFFICERS AND
NON- COMS.

8. PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI SAID YARG FEELS THAT TIES WITH
SUDAN SHOULD BE EXPANDED. AS ACTIVITY OF SUDANESE
FINANCE MISSION UNDER IBRD HAS SHOWN, SUDANESE ARE
INTELLIGENT AND CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION
IN YEMEN. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUDANESE EMBASSY IN SANAA
LOGICAL AND DESIRABLE IN VIEW PRESENCE OF YAR EMBASSY
IN SUDAN. YAR WILL BE FOLLOWING UP THESE LEADS.
CRAWFORD

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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